AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus that achieves cooperation among at least two work-flow systems, comprising:

a first work-flow system including a first computer apparatus serving as a work-flow server;

~~an electronic mail storage that stores an electronic mail sent from the first work-flow system, the electronic mail including a command;~~

a second work-flow system including a second computer apparatus serving as a work-flow server; ~~and~~

an electronic-mail storage that stores an electronic mail sent from the first work-flow system or the second work-flow system, the electronic mail including a command; and

a method-server apparatus that is connected to the first computer apparatus and the second computer apparatus, the method-server apparatus ~~reads~~reading the electronic mail from the electronic mail storage and ~~determines~~determining whether the electronic mail relates to the first work-flow system or the second work-flow system;

wherein the method-server apparatus transmits the command to a related one of the first work-flow system and the second ~~computer apparatus~~work-flow system, ~~when~~depending on which work-flow system the ~~command~~electronic mail relates to ~~a work-flow in the second work-flow system~~, the command is used to activate ~~the~~a work flow in the related one of the first work-flow system and the second work-flow system, whereby a corresponding one of the first computer apparatus and the second computer apparatus executes the work flow corresponding to the command in the related one of the first work-flow system and the second work-flow system.

2.   (Previously presented) A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first computer apparatus sends the electronic

mail for storage in the electronic-mail storage when electronic-mail processing is designated at a node of a work flow in the first work-flow system, and the first computer apparatus does not send the electronic mail when electronic mail processing is not designated at the node of the work flow in the first work-flow system.

3. (Previously presented) A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the method-server apparatus transmits the command to the second computer apparatus when the electronic mail is related to the work flow in the second work-flow system, and deletes the electronic mail from the electronic-mail storage.

4. (Previously presented) A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the command is an activation command that activates the work flow in the second work-flow system.

5. (Previously presented) A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic mail has text data, and the text data includes a parameter specifying the work flow in the second work-flow system.

6. (Currently amended) A work-flow cooperation processing system, comprising:

a first work-flow system and a second work-flow system;

an electronic-mail storage apparatus that stores an electronic mail sent from one of the first work-flow system and the second work-flow system; and

a method-server apparatus that connects to the first work-flow system and the second work-flow system, that reads the electronic mail from the electronic-mail storage apparatus, and that determines whether the electronic mail relates to the first work-flow system or the second work-flow system;

wherein the electronic mail includes a command, the method-server apparatus transmits the command to a related one of the first work-flow system and the second work-flow system, whendepending on which work-flow system the commandelectronic mail relates to a work flow in the second work flow system, the command is used to activate the work flow in the related work-flow

system, and the ~~second~~<u>related</u> work-flow system executes the work flow corresponding to the command in the ~~second~~<u>related</u> work-flow system.

7.   (Currently amended) A work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems, comprising the steps of:

sending an electronic mail to an electronic-mail storage from a first work-flow system <u>or a second work-flow system</u> of the plurality of work-flow systems:

storing the electronic mail in the electronic-mail storage;

reading out the electronic mail from the electronic-mail storage;

determining whether the electronic mail relates to ~~a~~<u>the first work-flow system or the</u> second work-flow system ~~of the plurality of work-flow systems~~;

sending a command included in the electronic mail to <u>a related one of the first work-flow system or</u> the second work-flow system<u>,</u> ~~when the command~~<u>depending on which work-flow system the electronic mail</u> relates to ~~a work-flow in the second work-flow system~~, the command is used to activate the work flow <u>in the related work-flow system</u>; and

executing the work flow corresponding to the command in the ~~second~~ ~~the~~<u>related</u> work-flow system.

8.   (Previously presented) A work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of:

designating electronic-mail processing in a node of a work flow in the first work-flow system,

wherein the first work-flow system sends the electronic mail for storage in the electronic-mail storage when electronic-mail processing is designated at the node of the work flow in the first work-flow system, and the first work-flow system does not send the electronic mail when electronic-mail processing is not designated at the node of the work flow in the first work-flow system.

9.   (Previously presented) A work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems according to Claim 7, wherein the command is sent to the second work-flow system and the electronic mail is deleted from the

electronic-mail storage when the electronic mail is related to the work flow in the second work-flow system.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A ~~recording~~computer-readable medium for storing a program that is executable by a computer for performing a work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems, the program executing the steps of:

      sending an electronic mail to an electronic-mail storage from a first work-flow system or a second work-flow system of the plurality of work-flow systems:

      storing the electronic mail in the electronic-mail storage;

      reading out the electronic mail from the electronic-mail storage;

      determining whether the electronic mail relates to ~~a~~the first work-flow system or the second work-flow system ~~of the plurality of work-flow systems~~;

      sending a command included in the electronic mail to a related one of the first work-flow system or the second work-flow system, ~~when the command~~depending on which work-flow system the electronic mail relates to ~~a work flow in the second work-flow system~~, the command is used to activate the work flow in the related work flow system; and

      executing the work flow corresponding to the command in the ~~second the~~related work-flow system.